

Gold River, CA - Wednesday the House Judiciary Committee held a "mark up" hearing for H.Res. 920, a resolution to compel U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder to turn over all communications relating to his decision to try certain Guantanamo detainees in New York

Congressman Dan Lungren, (R-CA), who serves on the judiciary committee, supports this effort to foster transparency on the part of the administration, especially since the decision to bring detainees into the United States could have serious national security implications for the American public. Moreover, a number of apparent conflicts of interest within the Department of Justice have come to light, such that Congressional oversight regarding federal criminal trials of detainees is essential.

More than a dozen new Department of Justice attorneys have just come from law firms representing Guantanamo detainees. The Attorney General himself used to work for Covington and Burling, a Washington DC firm that represents 16 Guantanamo detainees. The Principal Deputy Solicitor General, Neal Katyal, argued on behalf of Osama bin Laden's driver and bodyguard, Salim Ahmed Hamdan, in a case *against* the U.S. government before the Supreme Court. Yet, the Justice Department has said Katyal will continue to work on detainee-related matters for the government.

Lungren released this statement:

"Unfortunately, my colleagues on the other side of the political aisle did not vote favorably on the Resolution. I find it unfathomable that Members of Congress would not insist that the Department of Justice be transparent in its decision-making process. The American people deserve no less."

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Congressman Dan Lungren serves as Ranking Member on the House Administration Committee in addition to serving on the Judiciary and Homeland Security Committees